



KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOARD NOTES

Volume 13, No. 5 Report of the October 5-6, 2005, Regular Meeting

GOVERNOR FLETCHER AND BILLY HARPER ADDRESS STATE BOARD

At its October meeting, the Kentucky Board of Education was addressed by two distinguished guests, Governor Ernie Fletcher and Billy Harper, Chair of the Business Forum on Kentucky Education. Governor Fletcher shared his vision for Kentucky education and Mr. Harper presented recommendations for improving education from the Business Forum's recently released report. The Board will consider the content of these presentations and look for opportunities to partner with the Governor and the Business Forum on items of common agreement during the upcoming legislative session.

BOARD APPROVES LEGISLATIVE AGENDA AND BUDGET PRIORITIES

At its October meeting, the Kentucky Board of Education approved the following five non-budget related proposals as items to be considered by the 2006 General Assembly:

- Clarification of the language on principal selection to clearly indicate that the superintendent recommends candidates for the position and the council selects from among those recommended;
- Repeal of the sunset provision of KRS 157.621 to ensure any eligible district is able to levy the growth nickel, if needed for facilities due to unusual growth in student population;
- Suspension of the prevailing wage requirement for school construction for two to five years in order to study its impact;



- Requiring low-performing schools to review the readiness of all students entering the school in reading and mathematics, conduct additional diagnostic assessments for students and meet with parents to develop intervention plans addressing identified problems; and,
- Clarification that employment of teachers at the Kentucky School for the Blind and Kentucky School for the Deaf is comparable to local school districts, not KRS Chapter 18A.

The Board also approved specific budget priorities that will be pursued during the 2006 General Assembly as follows:

- Additional funding for the SEEK formula (teachers' salaries and cost of living increases, additional days for the school calendar for instruction and professional development, incentive compensation program increase, funding of transportation back to its prior level and inclusion of a weight for LEP students).
- Full funding of preschool.
- Funding of technology back up to a level where districts can meet requirements.

For more information on the non-budget legislative items, contact Bonnie Brinly at (502) 564-4474 or via email at Bonnie.Brinly@education.ky.gov. For budget-related priorities, contact Robin Kinney at (502) 564-1976 or via email at Robin.Kinney@education.ky.gov.

SIGNIFICANT DISCUSSION OCCURS ON REFOCUSING SECONDARY EDUCATION

A significant portion of time was spent by the Kentucky Board of Education in October on specific elements of the refocusing secondary education initiative. Three elements – minimum high school graduation requirements, the Commonwealth Diploma and aligning funding policy to facilitate secondary school reform – were discussed in detail and will require changes to administrative regulations that will come back for consideration of final approval at the December 7-8, 2005, meeting.

The proposed minimum graduation requirements presented to the Board were:

- Language Arts – Four (4) credits to include the content strands of reading, writing, speaking, listening, observing, inquiry, and using technology as a communication tool. Language arts shall be taken each year of high school.
- Social Studies – Three (3) credits to include the content strands of historical perspective, geography, economics, government and civics, and culture and society.
- Mathematics – Three (3) credits to include the content strands of number and computation, geometry and measurement, probability and statistics, and algebraic ideas and including the following minimum requirements:

- One mathematics course taken each year of high school to ensure readiness for postsecondary education or the workforce based on the student's Individual Graduation Plan;
 - Required courses shall include: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II or a course of equal rigor; and
 - The minimum course for credit shall be Algebra I.
- Science – Three (3) credits that shall incorporate lab-based scientific investigation experiences and include the content strands of biological science, physical science, earth and space science, and unifying concepts.
- Health – One-half (1/2) credit to include the content strands of individual well-being, consumer decision, personal wellness, mental wellness, and community services.
- Physical Education – One-half (1/2) credit to include the content strands of personal wellness, psychomotor, and lifetime activity.
- History and appreciation of Visual and Performing Arts – One (1) credit to include the content strands of arts, dance, music, theatre, and visual arts (or another arts course that incorporates this content) or a standards-based specialized course based on the student's Individual Graduation Plan.
- Academic and career interest standards-based learning experiences – Seven (7) credits including four (4) standards-based learning experiences in an academic or career interest based on the student's Individual Graduation Plan.
- World Language – Demonstrated proficiency in understanding and communicating in a second language.
- Technology – Demonstrated performance-based proficiency in technology.

The second item, possible changes to the Commonwealth Diploma, included offering this type of diploma with either an academic focus or a career and technical focus. For the academic focus option, the proposed requirements were:

- (1) Successful completion of at least twenty-two (22) approved units of credit, including all of the minimum unit requirements for high school graduation set forth in 704 KAR 3:305 and any additional units specified by the applicable local board of education.
- (2) (a) Successful completion (i.e., receiving a grade or the equivalent of "B" or better) of at least four (4) courses in at least two content areas that contain essential content as described in the Advanced Placement (AP) Program Course Description booklets of the College Entrance Examination Board, which may be obtained from the College Entrance Examination Board; or,
 - (b) Successful completion (i.e., receiving a grade or the equivalent of "B" or better) of at least four (4) courses that contain essential content as described in the International Baccalaureate (IB) program course description booklets, which may be obtained from the International Baccalaureate North America, Inc.;
- (3) Completion of one (1) AP Examination in at least three (3) of the AP or IB areas specified in subsection (3) of this section, with one passing score consisting of a

three (3) or higher on the AP Examination or a score of four (4) or higher on the IB Examination received prior to the senior year so that the score will be received in a timely manner to process the Commonwealth Diploma; and

- (4) A composite score of 1200 or higher on the verbal and mathematics sections of the SAT or a composite score of 24 on the ACT.

The proposed requirements for the career and technical focus included:

- (1) Successful completion of at least twenty-two (22) approved units of credit, including all the minimum unit requirements for high school graduation set forth in 704 KAR 3:305 and any additional units specified by the applicable local board of education;
- (2) Successful completion (i.e., receiving a grade or the equivalent of “B” or better) in at least two (2) AP or IB courses;
- (3) Completion of one (1) AP Examination in at least two (2) of the AP or IB areas as described in the Advanced Placement (AP) Program Course Descriptions published by the College Entrance Examination Board or as described in the International Baccalaureate (IB) program course descriptions published by the International Baccalaureate North America, Inc., with one passing score consisting of a three (3) or higher on the AP Examination or a score of four (4) or higher on the IB Examination received prior to senior year so that the score will be received in a timely manner to process the Commonwealth Diploma;
- (4) A composite score of 1200 or higher on the mathematics and verbal sections of the SAT or a composite score of 24 on the ACT;
- (5) Successful completion (i.e., receiving a grade or the equivalent of “B” or better) in at least one (1) dual credit technical course; and
- (6) Receive a Skill Standards Certificate.

The final component of the refocusing secondary education discussion dealt with alignment of funding policy to facilitate secondary reform and would require revisions to 702 KAR 7:125, Pupil attendance. The proposed changes to 702 KAR 7:125 would provide a funding option that would allow schools to earn average daily attendance (ADA) for students involved in other types of credit-bearing educational opportunities such as standards-based performance-based credit for a class or block. Additionally, funding would be provided for a program authorized by the commissioner of education so that graduation requirements are based on student proficiency of standards and performance rather than time and Carnegie units.

All of the regulations associated with these proposed changes will come back for further discussion and possible final approval at the December meeting.

For more information on these refocusing secondary education proposals, contact Starr Lewis at (502) 564-9850 or via email at Starr.Lewis@education.ky.gov or Linda Pittenger at (502) 564-4772 or via email at Linda.Pittenger@education.ky.gov.

MORE INTENSIVE/FOCUSED INTERVENTIONS DISCUSSED FOR LOW-PERFORMING/GAP SCHOOLS

At its October meeting, the Kentucky Board of Education continued discussions on the urgency of intervening in a more intensive/focused way in those schools that have shown the least progress in raising academic performance and closing achievement gaps. Kentucky Department of Education staff characterized these schools as being in “crisis” and indicated amendment of administrative regulations and state law would be needed to provide them with more intensive assistance. Specifically, Department staff asked the Board to consider the following:

- Current regulations allow for certain additional interventions to be applied to level 3 schools that remain in that status for two (2) consecutive biennia. There have been a certain number of schools that have moved in, out, and back into level 3 status from one biennia to another. In order to provide more sustained intervention to these schools, it is proposed that a school that falls into level 3 status for 2 out of 3 biennia, rather than just 2 consecutive biennia, will receive additional interventions.
- Currently, there are five (5) tiers under NCLB into which schools fall if they do not meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for a certain number of years ranging from 2 to 6. Additionally, schools that perform below a certain score on CATS are identified as level 1, level 2, or level 3. It is recommended that the law be amended to allow for schools in level 3 for two out of three biennia and tier 5 schools receive the same consequences and interventions. With this change, governance of tier 5 schools will be determined by scholastic audit teams the same as two biennia level 3 schools.

Other recommendations for the most effective strategies to assist low-performing schools and schools that have significant achievement gaps were considered. These were prioritized as those having the greatest impact on student achievement and were arranged around the topics of school culture, leadership, articulated curriculum, effective instruction and data-driven decision making/measuring progress.

Board members provided input on the proposals to Department staff on the proposals and asked that a revised draft be brought back to the December 7-8 meeting.

For more information on this topic, contact Johnnie Grissom at (502) 564-4970 or via email at Johnnie.Grissom@education.ky.gov or Steve Schenck at (502) 564-2116 or via email at Stephen.Schenck@education.ky.gov.

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED AT THE OCTOBER MEETING WERE:

- Minutes from the August 3-4, 2005, meeting
- Statement of Consideration for 702 KAR 6:090, Minimum Nutrition Standards adding language to allow a narrow exception for a school not participating in the school breakfast program on the effective date of the administrative regulation to operate a breakfast food and beverage concession as long as: the concession involves students and is intended primarily as a student learning opportunity; the concession offers only food and beverage items that meet the nutritional standards in Sections 1 and 2 of 702 KAR 6:090; and the concession ceases operation at least three hours before the first lunch period begins. Language was also added to exclude reduced fat (2% milk – fat or less) cheese from the requirement that calories from fat be limited to 30%.
- 704 KAR 3:325, Effective Instructional Leadership Act (Final)
- Denial of a waiver request of 704 KAR 3:305, Minimum High School Graduation Requirements from Franklin County
- Financial or program functions to be audited in fiscal year 2006 by the Auditor of Public Accounts
- 2005-2006 Local District Tax Rates Levied
- District Facility Plan for Grayson County
- District facility plan amendments for Barren and Pulaski Counties
- Jefferson County alternative SBDM allocation formula
- Declaration of emergency in the Jackson Independent District
- Evaluation of Commissioner Wilhoit
- 3% increase for Commissioner Wilhoit
- Travel of Hilma Prather to attend an SREB conference in November

OTHER ITEMS REVIEWED WITH NO ACTION TAKEN WERE:

- KDE Employment Report
- 704 KAR 3:480, Reading diagnostic and intervention grants
- 703 KAR 5:140, Requirements for school and district report cards
- The Auditor of Public Accounts' Statewide Single Audit Report for year ended June 30, 2004
- Kentucky's Writing Program: systematic approach to instructional ethics and professional development
- The Kentucky Education Excellence Scholarship Program
- Identification of District Watchlist

KBE MEETING DATES 2005

<u>2005</u>	<u>Type of Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>
October 5-6, 2005	Regular meeting	Frankfort
December 7-8, 2005	Regular meeting	Frankfort

***NOTE: November 2, 2005 KBE meeting has been cancelled.**

KBE MEETING DATES 2006

<u>2006</u>	<u>Type of Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>
January 4, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
February 1-2, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
March 8, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
April 11-12, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
May 10-11, 2006	KBE retreat and strategic plan discussion	*TBD
June 13-14, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
July 5, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
August 2-3, 2006	Regular meeting and commissioner's evaluation	Frankfort
September 6, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
October 4-5, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
November 1, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
December 6-7, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort

*TBD – To be determined

PROPOSED KBE MEETING DATES 2007

<u>2007</u>	<u>Type of Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>
January 10, 2007	Regular meeting	Frankfort
February 7-8, 2007	Regular meeting	Frankfort
March 7, 2007	Regular meeting	Frankfort
April 4-5, 2007	Regular meeting	Frankfort
May 9-10, 2007	KBE retreat and strategic plan discussion	*TBD
June 13-14, 2007	Regular meeting	Frankfort
July 11, 2007	Regular meeting	Frankfort
August 8-9, 2007	Regular meeting	Frankfort
September 5, 2007	Regular meeting	Frankfort
October 3-4, 2007	Regular meeting	Frankfort
November 14, 2007	Regular meeting	Frankfort
December 6-7, 2007	Regular meeting	Frankfort

For more information on the meeting dates, contact Mary Ann Miller at 502-564-3141 or via email at mmiller@kde.state.ky.us or Susan Palmer at 502-564-3141 or via email at spalmer@kde.state.ky.us.

The actions described above were taken in open session of the Kentucky Board of Education at the October 5-6, 2005, regular meeting conducted in the State Board Room, Capital Plaza Tower, 1st Floor, Frankfort, Kentucky. This information is provided in summary form, and an official record of the meeting is available on tape in the permanent records of the Kentucky

Board of Education, First Floor, Capital Plaza Tower, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. These records are open for inspection Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

For additional information about the Kentucky Board of Education meetings, agendas, minutes or special accommodations needed for attending meetings, contact Mary Ann Miller, Policy Advisor at (502) 564-3141.

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